

## REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **June 28, 2004** the Examiner reviewed claims 1-21. Claims 1-4, 6-11, 14, 15, 20, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Larson et al. (USPN 4,646,287, hereinafter “Larson”). Claims 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Larson in view of the Admitted prior Art (hereinafter “APA”). Claims 5 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Larson.

### Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Independent claims 1, 8, and 21 were rejected as being anticipated by Larson. Applicant respectfully points out that Larson teaches periodically sending a transmission across a link to assure the receiving node that the transmitting node and the interconnection link **have not failed** and/or to **maintain synchronization** between the receiving node and the transmitting node (see Larson, col. 1, lines 39-50).

In contrast, the present invention discloses keeping the digital system bus active to provide a constant load that maintains the digital system bus at a nominal operating temperature, thereby **mitigating temperature-induced effects** on timing margins, transmission-line effects, and first pulse distortion effects caused by an idle system bus (see page 6, lines 12-17 of the instant application). This is beneficial because it enhances the operation of the digital system bus by allowing reduced timing margins, providing increased reliability, and allowing an increased operating frequency; whereas the system of Larson only provides assurance of correct operation of the trunk. There is nothing within Larson, either explicit or implicit, which suggests keeping the digital system bus active to provide a constant load that maintains the digital system bus at a nominal operating temperature, thereby mitigating temperature-induced effects on timing margins,

transmission-line effects, and first pulse distortion effects caused by an idle system bus.


Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 8, and 21 to clarify that the present invention keeps the digital system bus active to provide a constant load that maintains the digital system bus at a nominal operating temperature, thereby mitigating temperature-induced effects on timing margins, transmission-line effects, and first pulse distortion effects caused by an idle system bus. These amendments find support on page 6, lines 12-17 of the instant application.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 8, and 21 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-7, which depend upon claim 1, and claims 9-20, which depend upon claim 8, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

**CONCLUSION**

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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